Invitation to untrained graduates and post-graduates for higher studies in Agriculture

1554. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Agricultural Research Institute has invited graduates and post-graduates who are not trained in agriculture science to take up Masters and even Ph. D studies in agriculture sciences at the institute during 1994-95; and

(b) what are the details of the policies and objectives of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) had invited applications for admission to Masters and Doctoral studies in Agriculture and allied sciences for 1994-95 session in which non-agricultural graduates were also eligible for admission in certain disciplines.

(b) IARI is a premier Institution engaged in research and higher education in agriculture and allied disciplines and enjoys the status of a "Deemed University" under Section 3 of UGC Act. The academic Council of the Instt. is empowered to prescribe qualifications for the education programmes.

Steps to increase agricultural production

1555. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are proposed to increase agricultural production above 3 per cent in 1995-96;

(b) the efforts likely to be made to increase foodgrain production beyond the present rate of increase of 2 per cent; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to increase agricultural production beyond 3 per cent per annum in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) In order to increase agricultural production including foodgrains, the Government of India is implementing number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the potential areas of the country with the objective to increase productivity.

Through these schemes, emphasis is being given for the propagation of improved technologies through demonstration and training and propagation and use of improved varieties of crops, implements, soil ameliorants, organics etc.

Marketing of Horticultural Crops

1556. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will intensify marketing efforts of horticultural crops;

(b) what are the present efforts in marketing of these products from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that less emphasis has been given to publicise and market the fruits from Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether Government will strengthen infra-structure facilities and propagate post harvest technology for horticulture sector; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme on Marketing Information Service of Fruits and Vegetables under which the marketing information centres in Andhra Pradesh have been established one at Hyderabad,

and the other at Vijayawada. These centres are collecting daily prices, arrival of various fruits and vegetables and disseminate the same through various mass media such as newspapers, All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendras. The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection had provided financial grant-in-aid to 138 markets in the state of Andhra Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 3.55 crores from 1975-76 to 1992-93 to strengthen infrastructural facilities and propagate post harvest technology. Out of this amount, Rs. 15 lakh were provided for the infrastructure development of fruits and vegetable markets in Hyderabad. The scheme has since been transferred to the State Government.

(d) and (e) The National Horticulture Board is providing financial assistance to government agencies/cooperative societies and other voluntary organisations to strengthen post harvest and marketing infrastructure for horticulture crops under "the strengthening post harvest structure for horticulture crops" scheme. Under this scheme, provision is made to provide assistance for pre-cooling units, transport vehicles, plastic crates, retail outlets and packing grading centres etc. During 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 3.95 lakh was provided to Andhra Pradesh and during the current year of 1994-95, an assistance of Rs. 65 lakhs is proposed in this state for strengthening post harvest infrastructural facilities. The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection also conducts various trials on transportation, packing, storage and grading of horticultural crops to improve their post harvest.

मिट्टी के आधार पर क्षेत्रों की पहचान करना

1557. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्षों में देश में कृषि उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए मिट्टी, जलवायु आदि के आधार पर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की पहचान की गई थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे क्षेत्रों की संख्या कितनी थी और ये किस-किस राज्य में स्थित थे ;

(ग) क्या इन क्षेत्रों के बारे में प्रचार करने के लिए उनके मानचित्र प्रकाशित किए गए थे ताकि ग्राम किसान इससे लाभान्वित हो सकें ;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन क्षेत्रों में अधिक पैदावार देने वाली फसलों के प्रचार की कोई व्यवस्था की है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उक्त व्यवस्था की विस्तृत रूपरेखा क्या है ; और

(च) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान सरकार द्वारा उक्त व्यवस्था की योजना और मानचित्रों के प्रकाशन पर कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई थी ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० कृष्ण कुमार) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां। भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के राष्ट्रीय मृदा सर्वेक्षण तथा भूमि उपयोग योजना, ब्यूरो देश के कृषि पारिस्थितिकी क्षेत्रों के मानचित्र तथा विभिन्न राज्यों के मृदा संसाधन मानचित्र को तैयार करने में लगा हुआ है। देश का एक 20 क्षेत्रीय कृषि परिस्थिति की मानचित्र 1:5 मिलियन स्केल में प्रकाशित किया गया है। कृषि परिस्थितिकी क्षेत्रों की सीमाएं एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य तक चली जाती हैं। राज्यों के साथ इन क्षेत्रों की सूची नीचे दी